

LOVE GOD'S WORD & PRAYER

Daily Bible Reading

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer*. We strongly believe that every growing disciple of Jesus needs to be regularly hearing from God through His word and personally speaking back to God through prayer. If regular Bible reading is not yet a habit of yours, this is a great way to get started!

We are encouraging everyone to continue our Daily Bible Readings. We will provide devotional thoughts and helpful prayer points on the passages. The weekend material will prepare you for the upcoming Sunday sermon as well as provide some discussion help for Faith Groups.

We encourage you to set aside at least 15-20 minutes a day for reading and prayer. If you fall behind, just start on the current day. Try to develop the habit of reading at the same time and place. Have a journal and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts and insights. For additional Bible reading plans, check out faithsf.com. Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!

Monday, July 25

Read Acts 27

THINK: Paul is now taken on a ship to voyage to Italy as prisoner of Rome. How long did this trip take? What was one of the trials the voyage faced? Paul and the ship's crew are faced with the possibility of a shipwreck. Paul spoke to the crew and assured them that they would not perish. This was made known to Paul by the vision explained in verse 23. What kind of faith did Paul show? How might the crew have been reacting to their situation? Place yourself as part of the crew. How might you have responded to the events of the storm and Paul's declaration of safety for all?

PRAY: Thank God for the voyages you are able to endure in your life! Give thanks that He sustains you during those voyages! Pray for those that are close to you that may be in the middle of a voyage that may not be going smoothly. Pray God would protect the people of Faith as they go about their day today! Pray that those serving the Gospel in hostile situations would have God's hand of protection upon them!

Tuesday, July 26

Read Acts 28

THINK: What an extraordinary account! God has his hand on Paul and speaks through Paul, and all that is declared comes true. Shipwreck! A snake! Divine healings! Rome! As this tremendous book of Dr. Luke comes to a conclusion, we observe once again the providence of God in allowing Paul freedom (under guard!) to preach and teach the gospel.

PRAY: Imagine the great joy of Dr. Luke when some day he stands before the throne of God with throngs of men and women from the whole world who have come to Jesus through the reading of Luke/Acts! All glory to God! Pray a prayer of joy to God for this amazing book, and for the lessons we have learned of the gospel, of our mission to the world, and of divine providence. Pray for the gospel to have great impact in today's Rome and Italy. Continue to pray for our Anticipating Change transition. Pray for wisdom in anticipating and navigating our finances during these times. Praise God for His faithful provision!

Wednesday, July 27

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21

THINK: 1 Samuel is the tale of two human kings, Saul and David, and one Great King, the LORD. Interestingly enough, the story begins with a childless woman, Hannah. In response to her prayers, the LORD gives Hannah a son Samuel who will be God's prophet to make way for the first king of Israel. Does any of this sound familiar? Notice Hannah's prayer. Does any of *that* sound familiar? (Re-read Luke 1.) Contrast Hannah's prayer with the lives of Eli's sons. Ugh.

PRAY: There is a wonderful prayer given for you in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Use this to guide you in prayer today! Parents, pray for God to instill this vision himself into your kids that they don't wind up like the worthless sons of Eli ☹. Thank God for his grace and faithfulness! Pray for Angela Myers and our children and youth leaders as they begin planning for the fall ministries.

Thursday, July 28

Read 1 Samuel 2:22-4:22

THINK: The days of Eli and his worthless sons are numbered. The word of the LORD and visions were rare. Is it any wonder that it took three calls before Eli realized that maybe it was God who was waking Samuel? Why was Samuel afraid to share God's message with Eli? What does Eli's reaction to the message say about him? The ark of the covenant was a unique and privileged symbol of God's glory and presence. How did the Israelites misuse the ark? What was the outcome?

PRAY: Pray for our nation, that there would be a return to God's word and faithfulness. Pray that we as Christians in America would not abuse or take for granted whatever privileges we might currently have lest God write 'Ichabod' over the church! Ask God to renew us in our calling to speak for and represent him. Lord, keep us humble during these quickly changing times.

Friday, July 29

Read 1 Samuel 5:1-7:17

THINK: In what ways did God display his power and glory to the Philistines while they had the ark? What happened when the ark was returned to the Israelites? Seems they haven't yet learned their lesson, so while technically back in rightful hands, the ark will stay put until David is king. Samuel begins to call for a return to the LORD and the people respond, but the Philistines come at them *again!* What does this teach us about the gospel and repentance? What (better yet, who) is our 'Ebenezer', our "stone of help"?

PRAY: Remember that repentance does not mean that the consequences of sin disappear. Are you dealing with any of those consequences in your life? Pray and look to Christ who bore the full punishment and wrath of God for your sin once and for all. Ask God for help to stand up under the weight of whatever consequences still linger.

Weekend, July 30-31

Read Isaiah 6

If you've fallen behind this week, consider using these extra days to catch up. You can also prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday's worship service. Read the planned sermon text above and the thoughts below in advance of Sunday morning's message. If you are in a Faith Group, consider discussing the questions below together.

THINK: We are continuing our summer preaching series focusing on treasuring God's divine attributes. This Sunday we are directing our attention to the Holiness of God. How did Isaiah describe the awe-inspiring sights around God's throne? How did Isaiah see himself once he had been exposed to God's glory? What provision was made for Isaiah's guilt in the presence of a holy God? How did Isaiah respond to God's call? What can we learn about the nature of God from the vision Isaiah had before His throne?

PRAY: C.H. Spurgeon was quoted as saying, "*No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind than thoughts of God.*" How true as we see Isaiah come face to face with God. Pray for Pastor Dana at South Campus and Dennis Webber as they preach on the Holiness of God this Sunday. Pray that God will reveal Himself in a new or fresh way today. Pray for a renewed willingness to be available to be used by God for His purposes. Pray for our Quarterly Business Meeting at South Campus Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm.

FAITH GROUP: Discuss in your groups what you have learned about the nature of God from the vision Isaiah had before His throne? How can we follow Isaiah's example of availability to God? What might that look like in your situation?